

I SAW! DC™ 2014 ANNUAL REPORT
by Quentina Johnson



Overview:

During the 2014 fiscal year, I SAW! DC successfully implemented its youth led community based field research programming with a \$2,500 grant awarded by the DC Humanities Council, \$1,000 grant awarded by Generations United and a \$1,500 grant awarded by the Diverse City Fund. I SAW! DC's chief teen researcher coordinated with the historical sites such as the Charles Sumner Museum, 15th Street Presbyterian Church, Mount Zion United Methodist Church, Ashbury Methodist Church, Tudor Place Historic House & Gardens and George Washington's Estate at Mt. Vernon, Library of Congress and National Archives for summer youth to tour sites in DC and participate in oral histories, interviews and community based field research uncovering the earliest legacy of DC's local African American community buried behind the buildings of gentrification. As a result of the 2014 youth led research project, an interactive online multi-media digital exhibit was produced by the summer youth for a global audience.

Highlights:

- 1) ***A new youth initiative***----In the spring of 2014, we successfully launched a pilot youth leadership in training project on Saturdays during 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 a.m. The project was initiated the 2nd week of March thru June 21st, four youth leaders, ages 13 to 16 years old were interviewed, recruited and trained to participate in planning I SAW! DC's 2014 annual summer youth led community based intergenerational research project. During the spring project planning, Talia Mosconi the educational director at Tudor Place and Kimberly Springles Director of the Charles Sumner Museum partnered with I SAW! DC's chief researcher for the 2014 summer project <http://isawdc.blogspot.com/2014/06/i-saw-dcs-2014-pilot-spring-youth.html>. Former I SAW! DC 2012 youth participant Sade Hale returned as an intern to meet requirements for Kent State University.
- 2) ***Annual youth led summer community based project***----During the summer of 2014, eight youth leaders were engaged in researching and documenting the legacy of DC's earliest African American community members and their civic accomplishments as well as focuses on current themes. Local historian C.R. Gibbs, Dr. Tressie Muldrow, the church historian at the 15th Street Presbyterian Church, Kimberly Springles, the director of the Charles Sumner Museum, Talia Mosconi, the educational director at Tudor Place, Historical Research Consultant, Matt Gilmore, Mary Thompson, the research historian and Joe Downer, the site crew chief at the Mt. Vernon Estate, Ahmed Johnson, Library of Congress and Robert Osley, church history presenter at Ashbury Church were field research mentors assisting the youth in their research investigations.



Final Outcomes:

- 3) Halie Gerima an independent filmmaker and his wife Shirikiana Gerima also a filmmaker, owners of Sankofa Video & Books. The use of technology, film, photography and artistic interpretations were produced to digitally highlight and preserve their discoveries in a 2014 online web-based exhibit.
<http://youth44.wix.com/isawdc2014exhibit1>.
- 4) **Film Screening & Presentation----**
During the spring and summer programs as well at the conclusion of the summer research project the youth leaders presented their work in a multi-media presentation at Tudor Place Historic House & Gardens,
<http://isawdc.blogspot.com/2014/08/week-5-our-last-day-at-tudor-place.html> as well as hosted a film screening documenting their research project and presented their historical findings at a community event hosted by Sankofa Videos & Bookstore with use of video projection equipment by courtesy of our fiscal sponsor, The Washington Peace Center. <http://isawdc.org/come-see-us.html> .
- 5) **DC Annual Historical Studies Conference----**On November 21st & 22nd in 2014, I SAW! DC youths presented their 2014 summer research historical findings and videos documenting the earliest legacy of African American communities at the 41st annual conference hosted by the Historical Society of Washington, D.C.
<https://annualconferencedchistoricalstudies.wordpress.com/2014/11/>

- ❖ **News blog** –A digital blog was created by youth to journal and document spring and summer programs highlighting research process.
<http://isawdc.blogspot.com/>
- ❖ **Online Multi-Media Exhibit-** A global online interactive exhibit was created for a worldwide audience to access the history findings produced by I SAW! DC youth uncovering the legacy and contributions of DC’s earliest local African American community.
<http://youth44.wix.com/isawdc2014exhibit1#!emotional/c1t44>
- ❖ **Youth Leadership-I SAW! DC** expanded programing beyond summer youth to incorporate youth leadership development and training in partnership with local cultural historical institutions of national prominence during the spring pilot project.
<http://isawdc.blogspot.com/2014/06/i-saw-dcs-2014-pilot-spring-youth.html>.
- ❖ **Community Outreach-**Presentations at I SAW! DC’s summer screening and DC’s Historical Studies Conference.
<http://youth44.wix.com/isawdc2014exhibit1#!about/c10fk>
- ❖ **Documentary Videos-**Video production of footage used to document the historical legacy and impact of earlier communities.
<http://youth44.wix.com/isawdc2014exhibit1#!blank/c12p0>
- ❖ **Surveys & Evaluation Data-**
(Available Upon Request)

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